The Judicial Branch News

Volume 6, Issue 2 February 2011

Court Selected for Probate Pilot

The American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging and advisors from the National College of Probate Judges selected Maricopa County Superior Court as one of two courts in the nation to participate in a pilot project on volunteer guardianship assistance and monitoring.

The pilot, which will begin early this Spring, will help Superior Court develop more effective ways to recruit, train and utilize volunteers to effectively oversee and safeguard adult wards under the court's protection.

"Guardianship Review volunteers serve as the eyes and ears of the court by visiting wards to see if they are receiving the appropriate care," Probate Court Presiding Judge Rosa Mroz said.

Since 1993, the Court has operated a Guardian Review Program; however, due to the increased number of adult guardianships and diminishing resources, the court is unable to effectively monitor all of these cases through routine visits of all adult wards on a regular basis.

At the present time, Superior Court's Guardian Review Program consists of eight active volunteers. During Fiscal Year 2008 though 2010, these volunteers conducted an average of 370 in-person visits annually of adult wards.

"We need to enhance our volunteer program. Because of the size of our county and our elder population, it is critical that our court develop and implement an improved volunteer monitoring program that can adequately serve and protect our nearly 6,000 adult wards," Judge Mroz said.

To launch the pilot, Superior Court will receive an incentive grant of $2,000.

Also, Judge Mroz has appointed Probate Counsel Diana Clarke to oversee the program. Clarke will work directly with ABA and AARP staff on implementing the pilot project. She will also be responsible for assisting in creating and enhancing all written materials, including a corresponding handbook for volunteers and contributing to the development of a national volunteer program.

The Court will also commit one staff position, who will work at least 10 hours per week, coordinating the program. The coordinator will select and train volunteers, select cases for volunteer visits, assign volunteers to cases, supervise volunteers, review volunteer reports on visits and relay needed information to judicial officers.

In this Issue

Judges Burke and Budoff Retire.....2

Students Visit Superior Court.....4

Judicial Officers Volunteer for StandDown.....6

Photo Highlights.....8

The *Judicial Branch News* is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations and Community Outreach Department.

If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to: karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

"Equal Justice Under Law"

News and Notes

Judge Robert Budoff Retires

Robert Budoff

Northeast Presiding Superior Court Judge Robert Budoff has announced he will retire on February 25.

Judge Budoff, who served 20 years on the Bench, has served with distinction in every department of the court as a commissioner and judge.

"I am happy for Bob that he will be able to turn to other pursuits of his choice after 20 years of exemplary service to the bench, but I will miss him as an outstanding judicial officer on our court," said Presiding Judge Norman Davis. "I have known Bob for some years before I was appointed to the Bench 15 years ago, and have always admired the way that he treated me and all others that appeared in front of him."

Before his appointment to the Superior Court Bench, Judge Budoff was in private practice for 7 years, and he served 12 years as a Juvenile Court Commissioner before rejoining the Bench in 1991.

Judge Budoff is a graduate of the University of Nebraska School of Law and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Hiram Scott College, Nebraska.

Judge Edward Burke Retires

Edward Burke

Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Edward Burke will retire on February 28 after serving more than 11 years on the Bench.

Since his appointment in 1999, Judge Burke presided over civil, family and criminal court calendars, including an appointment as civil presiding judge.

"Over the years Judge Burke has handled heavy calendars and still volunteered extensively to hear additional cases and trials not assigned to him," said Presiding Judge Norman Davis. "We will miss Judge Burke's enthusiast work ethic, sound judicial demeanor, and light-hearted outlook."

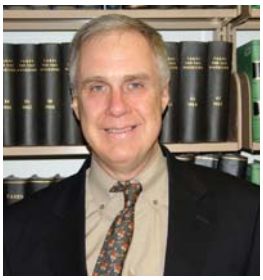
Before his judicial appointment, Judge Burke had a 30-year career in private practice. He was a Partner at Bennett, Burke, Carmichael & Kennedy and was a founding partner of Norton, Burke, Berry & French. He was also an attorney at Attorney, Rawlins, Ellis, Burrus & Kiewit.

Judge Burke earned his Bachelor's Degree from Harpur College, now Binghamton University; his Masters in Business Administration from Arizona State University and his Juris Doctorate from Syracuse University School of Law.

Judge Thompson's Investiture

Arizona Supreme Court Vice Chief Justice Andrew D. Hurwitz (left) delivers the oath of office to Superior Court Judge Peter Thompson during his investiture ceremony at Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.

New Commissioner Appointed


John Doody

Presiding Judge Norman Davis appointed John R. "Jack" Doody as a Superior Court Commissioner. His first assignment will be on Civil/ Probate at the Northeast Regional Court Center.

Commissioner Doody is admitted to practice law in all courts in California and in Arizona. He practiced civil litigation for 26 years, including 9 years in his own firm. He also served two terms on the Ethics Committee

Comm. Doody - Continued on page 3

News and Notes

Judge Michael McVey to Preside at Northeast

Judge Michael McVey will serve as Northeast Presiding Judge effective upon the retirement of Judge Robert Budoff.

"Thanks to Judge Budoff for his enthusiastic and able leadership at Northeast. We will miss his sage wisdom and advice at JEC, and wish him the best in retirement," said Presiding Judge Norman Davis.

Michael McVey

Where's President Lincoln and Why?

During construction of the escalator project in the Central Court Lobby, the bust of President Abraham Lincoln has been temporarily placed outside the jury room during construction.

The placement was selected so jurors can see Lincoln the Lawyer when they appear for jury service. The bust serves dually as a piece of art that extols the virtues of Lincoln and a landmark to help court customers navigate the Courthouse.

Commissioner Doody Continued....

of the State Bar of Arizona and as a member of the American Arbitration Association's Commercial and Construction panels in Phoenix.

Commissioner Doody was born and raised in the Chicago area. He is the eldest of 11 children. He served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, working in the Judge Advocate General's Corps in Japan and in the United States. After leaving the service, he attended Eastern Illinois University, earning a degree in Economics with high honors. He later graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1982.

Pro Tems Learn the Nuances of Tax Court

A forum entitled "Conducting Settlement Conferences in Tax Cases" was held in the Downtown Justice Court Training Center on February 4th. Hosted by the Superior Court's Tax Department, pro tem judges assembled for a Continuing Legal Education-approved training concentrating on the diverse types of tax matters that characteristically are disputed within the Alternative Dispute Resolution format.

Former Superior Court Judges Kenneth L. Fields and Mark W. Armstrong, along with a host of subject matter experts, led the video recorded presentation. Targeted agenda topics were designed to enhance the cadre of tax judge pro tems familiarity with the unique nuances relating to tax dispute cases.

During the last two years, Superior Court has experienced a 160 percent increase in tax case filings.

Judge Dean Fink, the state's only at-large tax judge, envisions that participants of this unique training event were provided valuable information aimed at enhancing all aspects of the tax dispute process within the ADR format.

Submitted by: Mitch Michkowski,
Tax Court Administrator

Courthouse Experience

Record Number of Students Visit Superior Court

On Wednesday, February 2, 2011, 218 students from Willis Junior High School in Chandler, AZ participated in the Courthouse Experience Program.

Tami Franks, the teacher responsible for bringing the students, said the “students thought the visit was incredible!” Franks’ second group of 200 students visited Court on Monday, February 7th. To date, the Courthouse Experience Program has had 1,572 students visit the Court during the 2010 -2011 school year.

Court News

New Tools in Superior Court Education

The first in a series of tools and concepts regarding training.

Why do you have to fill out an evaluation after every training class you attend or video you watch?

There are two reasons: First: an evaluation is required for COJET compliance - evaluations are mandatory after every educational session that is accredited for COJET credit. Second, it allows the education group to determine whether a class is relevant to you and the work of the court. What may seem like a good idea for a class may actually need revisions based on the audience and delivery.

We have revised the old evaluation and started asking questions that can enable us to change what and how we deliver training. It will get us more focused on what you really need and whether or not your needs are being met. It is hard to have you tell us what it is you need to learn when "you don't know what you don't know". This may be the tool to begin that conversation.

Submitted by Cindy Reid
Education and Training Director

State Bar Publications Available Courtwide Online

Chances are you fit into one of two categories: (a) you don't know the State Bar of Arizona has legal publications, or (b) you use these publications in print only. So you could be surprised to know that many of the State Bar publications are available in an online searchable format. The Superior Court Law Library offers this online access to State Bar publications through Loislaw, one of our many electronic resources, and in print.

The State Bar publications can be an extremely helpful legal research tool. The topics vary widely, but here are some example titles:

Arizona Appellate Handbook
Arizona Attorney
Arizona Civil Remedies
Arizona Employment Law Handbook
Arizona Probate Code Practice Manual

If you use Westlaw or Lexis, you might have checked either of these computer-assisted legal research providers for this content. But you would not find it there. That's because Loislaw has the exclusive right to provide access to these publications in an electronic format. Loislaw offers other publications as well including various legal treatises and unannotated state statutes.

To learn how to locate and use Loislaw, please contact the Law Library at X63461 or services@scll.maricopa.gov. We have a handy guide that tells you exactly how to use Loislaw to access these publications, and, we are ready to send to you!

If you have any questions about other Law Library services, please let us know. And, remember that our mission is to provide the Court with timely, efficient, and reliable access to legal information! So, the next time you find yourself needing to do legal research, think of the Law Library. Legal research is our specialty.

Submitted by Jennifer Murray
Law Library

Arizona StanDown

Judicial Officers Volunteer for Arizona StandDown

Commissioner Michael Hintze presides over a court matter.

Deputy Criminal Court Administrator Paula Collins helps judicial officers at StandDown.

Superior and Justice Court Judicial Officers spent Super Bowl weekend volunteering to help homeless and at-risk veterans at the annual Arizona StandDown event at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum at the Arizona State Fairgrounds.

Arizona StandDown was a three-day event that connected the Valley's homeless and at-risk military veterans with services such as: healthcare, mental health services, clothing, meals, emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, ID/ drivers' licenses, court services and legal aid, showers and haircuts. This was the first time that both Superior and Justice Courts participated in the event.

Presiding Criminal Court Judge Douglas Rayes said, "Many of these men and women have experienced traumatic events serving our country in the military that significantly impacted their lives. Now they find themselves on the street. Some have pending court matters that, for a variety of reasons, they have been unable to face or resolve. The volunteer judges, lawyers and staff gave these heroes the opportunity to face their legal matters, and in most cases, resolve them on the spot. Our volunteers were proud to help our veterans find some peace of mind and deliver justice."

Superior Court staffed two courts throughout the event to assist veterans who had court matters that needed to be resolved. Additionally, Justices of the Peace C. Steven McMurry, Gerald Williams and Rachel Carrillo handled cases on behalf of the 25 Justice Courts in Maricopa County. Superior and Justice Court Judges and Commissioners handled probation violations, warrants, changes of plea and sentencings as well as civil and criminal traffic cases and other types of misdemeanor offenses. Court staff assisted the volunteer judicial officers throughout the event.

While its primary goal was to provide homeless veterans with resources to regain their highest level of independence, its secondary goal was to bring the community and service providers together to benefit homeless veterans.

Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Deborah Coleman Adult Probation Officer
Perla Florez Adult Probation Officer
Raymond Delgado Judicial Clerk Associate
Rodney Burton Judicial Clerk Associate
Nicole Garcia Judicial Clerk Lead
Richard Varela Office Assistant
Martha Hidalgo Security Officer II
Jessica Funkhouser Special Court Counsel
Lauren Jones Juvenile Detention Officer
Dusti Quinn Judicial Clerk Associate
Jocely Myers Adult Probation Officer
Gregory Medeiros Judicial Assistant-Classified
Veronica Hatter Juvenile Detention Officer
Peter Marturana Human Resources Associate
Naara Herrera Presentence Screener

10 Years

Amy Fuller Court Reporter
Luetta Hinkle Judicial Clerk Associate
Lorraine Guier Collector
Monica Schroeder Judicial Clerk Lead
Luz Franco Court Reporter
Robert Asay Adult Probation Officer
Lynne Carpenter Adult Probation Officer
Michael Moreno Adult Probation Officer
Darrick Payne Adult Probation Officer
Patrica Swafford Adult Probation Officer
Jennifer Putnam Ooms Judicial Assistant
Paul Christie Juvenile Detention Officer
Maria Maurin Security Officer II

15 Years

Patricia Maryland Juvenile Probation Officer
John Johnson Judicial Assistant
Debra Watson Juvenile Detention Officer
Jan Lara Judicial Clerk Associate
Lara Meier Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv
Shannon Hendrix Juvenile Probation Officer
Julie Ramirez Judicial Assistant
Carlos Perez Juvenile Probation Officer

20 Years

Tania Green Judicial Clerk Supervisor
James Kaminsky Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv
William King Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv
Rita Shepherd Juvenile Probation Ofcr Supv
Jeanne Davis Court Investigator
Mark Moreno Judicial Assistant

25 Years

Debra Adamson Adult Probation Officer
Tami Knott Adult Probation Officer
Patricia McDonagh-Konecki Adult Prob Offic
Kit Russell Adult Probation Officer
James Marshburn Surveillance Officer
Michele Bodenmiller Presentence Screener
Joan Batchelor Adult Probation Officer
Richard Breed Adult Probation Officer Supv

Black History Month Celebration

The African American Knowledge Network, a Maricopa County affinity group, will celebrate Black History Month with its 6th Annual Forum on February 24 at the Board of Supervisors Auditorium from 11:30 a.m. - 1p.m.

Among those honored will be retiring Adult Probation Officer Gloria Washington. Last year, Washington, a 32-year senior adult probation officer, was awarded the Living the Dream "Arizona Black Law Enforcement Employee Officer of the Year" Award at the Martin Luther King luncheon at the Phoenix Convention Center.

The theme of this year's event will be "Taking Responsibility for Developing Tomorrow's Leaders." For more information about AAKN, please contact Donna McHenry at 602-372-2471 or through Outlook.

Submitted by E. Lamont Leonard, Maricopa County Adult Probation

Courtside

Court Tower Photo Update

Photo by Maricopa County

Court Tower Construction Update

In Memory

Presiding Judge Norman Davis (Left) with former Justice of the Peace Armando Gandarilla (Right)

Judge Gandarilla passed away at his home in Phoenix, Arizona on January 24. He was a Justice of the Peace for the Downtown Justice Court since 2008.

Judge Roland Steinle III celebrates his 10th-year on the Superior Court Bench. Since his appointment in 2001, Judge Steinle presided over civil, family and criminal court calendars. Prior to becoming a Judge, he was a public defender for 15 years.

National and local media watch the Faleh Hassan Almaleki trial in the media room in Central Court Building 402. CBS 48 Hours and Fox National News have been present throughout the trial.